

The Sun

WILLIAM M. LAFAN.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1904.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second-Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	90 00
DAILY, Per Year	1 00 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70 00

Postage to foreign countries added.

THE SUN, New York City.

Paris—Rue de la Paix, No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and
Kiosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

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Police Work in Santo Domingo.

In every aspect the situation in Santo Domingo is desperate. The country is in a state of hopeless anarchy. It is bankrupt, and burdened with debt. Its productive industries are paralyzed, and its people are demoralized by an unending series of revolts instigated by those who are ambitious only for the spoils of office. The national finances are in utter disorder; and even in the hands of an honest administrator the revenues of the island, under the existing fiscal system, would only be a little more than suffice to pay the interest on the outstanding obligations and leave an inadequate sum for government administration.

Of possible change in the existing conditions from any source within the island itself there is absolutely no hope. Those whose knowledge of Dominican affairs qualifies them to speak with authority declare that the island is destitute of leaders with the strength, ability, and patriotism to restore order and insure its continuance.

If their condition concerned none except the Dominicans themselves, they might be left to their own destruction. Were they barbarians by whose extinction the world might be justified in letting them alone. But they are neither isolated nor barbaric. The island and its affairs have a place in the life of the larger world, and the Dominican people are, as a people, not widely different from their neighbors, the Cubans and the Porto Ricans. Despite their frequent insurrections, fomented by self-seeking and unscrupulous politicians ambitious for preferment and for control of the national revenues, the people of Santo Domingo are not rightly to be regarded as warlike in character or turbulent in disposition. Disturbed political conditions and economic distress have made them the ready victims of political schemers.

The establishment of an assured peace under a strong and stable government is an earnest and a genuine desire of the major portion of the island people. There now seems to be only one way in which this can be effected.

It Is Best for Congress to Follow Mr. Roosevelt's Advice.

The Naval Appropriation bill now before the House carries \$36,338,038. The Administration originally recommended appropriations amounting to \$105,962,844. The estimates of the Executive authorities have been shorn down by the legislators in committee by almost ten million dollars.

This process of amendment works the wrong way. Instead of reducing the total asked for by the Administration, Congress ought to increase the same. Congress ought to double it, if the money can be spent to advantage. Congress ought to triple it, if necessary, the creation of a sea force adequate to any emergency.

This is especially true with regard to that part of the appropriation bill which relates to naval increase. The Administration asked for \$36,228,860 for new vessels. The committee's bill carries only \$21,826,860. The reduction here amounts to \$14,401,999, or more than 12 per cent. of the Department's estimates.

Mistaken economy, or, rather, economy preposterously misplaced. It is like reducing household expenses by cutting down the premiums paid for insurance on the house itself.

Mr. Roosevelt stated the right principles with remarkable clearness and vigor when he said in his speech at Secretary Moody's home, Haverhill, Mass., a year ago last August:

"It is impossible after the outbreak of war to improve either the ships or the men of a navy."

"A navy's efficiency is a war depends mainly upon its preparation at the onset of that war."

"We are not to be excused as a nation if there is not such preparedness of our navy."

"No nation has a right to undertake a big task unless it is prepared to do it in masterful and effective style."

"Our navy is now efficient, but we must be content with no ordinary degree of efficiency. Every effort must be made to bring it ever nearer to perfection."

Every effort, and at any cost in mere dollars. Since the foregoing words were uttered the soundness of the President's philosophy of naval increase and preparedness has received a most striking and even startling illustration in the actual experience of Russia at the outbreak of her war with Japan.

But it is not only to the almost prophetic wisdom of the President's general remarks at Haverhill that we would now call the attention of Congress. In the past he has studied the subject in detail, and with characteristic energy. His advice respecting specific questions of naval enlargement and policies of construction merits the most careful consideration at the Capitol.

When Mr. ROOSEVELT was Assistant Secretary of the Navy, just before the outbreak of hostilities with Spain, he threw himself heart and soul into every theoretical or practical inquiry which in his view seemed likely to promote the readiness of this branch of the service for the war then impending. His enthusiasm and activity were at times even a source of amusement to his immediate official superiors.

Among the more specially technical or professional questions to which the young Assistant Secretary devoted such of his time as he was able to spare was the question of the

demands of routine business, and concerning which he reached a positive conclusion, was that of the probable value of the torpedo boat in actual warfare, and the expediency of investing much money in the construction of more vessels of that class. It had been a hotly contested question among the theorists here in our own service, as well as abroad. As the result of his own special examination of the subject Mr. ROOSEVELT became convinced of the immense value of the torpedo boat.

Yet since that time the general policy of Congress, and in a large measure of the Department itself, has not quite been in accord with Mr. ROOSEVELT's conclusions. This is shown by the fact that in 1904 the United States Government, with 54 torpedo vessels in its fleet, is building only 4; while Great Britain, with 224 torpedo boats and submarines, is building 31; France, with 315, is building 15; and Japan, with 86, is adding 18 to her fleet. Our country is away behind the other naval powers. Mr. ROOSEVELT satisfied himself in 1898 that this policy was wrong.

What an impressive demonstration of the soundness of his conclusions in this respect, and of the accuracy of his foresight, has been afforded to the world by the events during the initial stage of the war in the Yellow Sea!

If we are not very much mistaken, Mr. ROOSEVELT in 1898 embodied his conclusions concerning torpedo boats in a memorandum or memorandum which is or ought to be on file in the Navy Department. The document would be of exceptional interest just now, not only to Americans, but also to students of military science the world over. We are confident that if it were called for by the House and printed for the benefit of Representatives during the present discussion of the Naval Appropriation bill, the result would be a greater willingness to vote money for naval increase in general—certainly for additional torpedo boats in particular.

Curtailling the Vested Powers of Our Supreme Court.

A bill has been introduced in the State Senate by Mr. EISENBERG of this city which is known as No. 197, and is entitled "An act to provide for the appointment of Supreme Court commissioners in counties having a certain population and providing for the mode of selecting and appointing such Supreme Court commissioners for each of said counties and regulating and describing the duties of such commissioners."

The act, while general in its terms, providing that "there shall be Supreme Court commissioners appointed in each county of the State having a population of 500,000 or more," by the Appellate Division of the department in which such county is situated, "affects in reality only the county of New York and the county of Kings, and the bill, therefore, special legislation, designed to give to the Legislature and the Governor the power to control the judiciary in these two counties. The act, in brief, provides for the creation in this county of twenty standing referees called commissioners, and of ten more in Kings county. These Supreme Court commissioners are to be appointed by the concurrent action of at least five of the Justices of the Appellate Division, and the appointments are to be subject to the approval of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. But no appointment shall be valid unless approved by the Governor of the State within ten days thereafter. These new officials will practically supplant all other referees, although parties litigant will still have the right to nominate a referee consented to by all the parties, but this, in most cases, is an empty privilege.

Great and all-embracing powers are given to these commissioners; while they are to have all the general powers heretofore possessed by referees they are further empowered to try actions with or without a jury; upon such trials they can exercise all the powers of a Justice of the Supreme Court or of a Judge of any court in which the action is pending; they can decide all the issues arising in all actions or special proceedings sent to them, and all interlocutory or intermediate matters, and certain of these commissioners, called "chambers commissioners," must hear and report upon all motions made for preliminary relief, and must report upon all applications referred to them to inquire into the good faith of any defence or answer claimed to be sham or false.

A fantastic division of these commissioners is to be made into three classes: Class A, "trial commissioners"; Class B, "chambers commissioners"; and Class C, "condemnation commissioners." In any action at issue in the Supreme Court, that court at chambers, upon application of the parties who have appeared, must send the action and all the issues therein to one of the trial commissioners, who then proceeds to exercise all the powers of a Justice of the Supreme Court, empanelling juries, administering oaths, setting aside verdicts, and even punishing for contempt. Issues are to be sent to the chambers commissioners, not only by the Justices of the Supreme Court, but by the Surrogates and by the Judges of the City Court.

The condemnation commissioners are to sit in all proceedings under the law of eminent domain, and will supplant the commissioners of estimate and assessment of or estimate and appraisal heretofore appointed in all city matters, as well as the opening of streets and the acquisition of new parks, and in all railway condemnation proceedings.

This bill is the worst proposition that has yet been submitted; it is unconstitutional, vicious and dangerous to the public weal; ridiculous in its provisions, and wasteful in its tendencies. If we need more Judges in this county or in the county of Kings, let them be elected by the people, after due nomination, and after their names have been submitted to popular suffrage. Let us not have a standing body of second rate Judges—little men or third rate politicians, enjoying the great powers now vested in the Supreme Court, and masquerading under the sobriquet of "Supreme Court commissioners."

This act is clearly unconstitutional!

First, because it attempts to appoint officers who will be, in reality, Supreme Court Judges, without their election by the people; second, because it curtails or takes away powers now exercised by the Justices of the Supreme Court in this county and in Kings county. In its main features and in its details, it lessens the general jurisdiction of law and equity, inalienably conferred by our State Constitution upon our Supreme Court. The bill does even more than this; it makes these little commissioners in some respects greater than the Justices of the Supreme Court, because these referees will enjoy larger powers. A Supreme Court Justice is now retired when he attains the age of 70 years, while the new commissioners are to sit until they are 75 years old.

Another objection, showing the inherent rottenness of the scheme, is the fact that it will inflict an enormous burden of new taxation upon the taxpayers of this county and of Kings county.

Referees are now paid by litigants, and, as a rule, the fees of referees are small. The salaries of these commissioners, fixed at the sum of \$10,000 each—probably far more than that which has hitherto been earned by any successful applicant for the place—are to be paid from the public till, and when we add to salaries the cost of thirty new court rooms, and their maintenance and support, with hordes of petty officials and unnecessary attendants, we realize that the proposition means at least an added burden of half a million per annum at the beginning, soon to be increased by additional appointments to a million dollars a year.

These standing referees will not relieve our congested calendars, as accident cases will not be sent to them, and they will simply add scores of occasional referees, who, under our existing system, speedily dispose of the issues sent to them; and as the salary is fixed at \$10,000 per annum, the permanent commissioners will never feel called upon to put in a long day's work. Moreover, it would be simply impossible for these men to dispose rapidly of condemnation proceedings and to open streets and acquire school sites with the expedition now demanded by the public. These commissioners would be simply swamped under the great mass of ordinary litigation sent to them, aside from any proceedings to condemn real estate, and successive Legislatures would again be successfully importuned to increase, year by year, the number of these pernicious little officials.

If we need more Judges, send them down to us from the county districts, or, better still, elect them here by the vote of the people; but do not pass any such hybrid measure and unconstitutional law.

John Sharp Williams on Southern Prosperity.

In the House of Representatives, Thursday, the Hon. JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS compared the average prosperity and comfort of the Nutmegs and the Mississippians:

"I say that Mississippi is to-day in a much more prosperous condition than is Connecticut. I say that Mississippi, in a right sense, is more prosperous, her people are more prosperous, than they are in the State of Connecticut. The aggregate wealth of Connecticut is ten times as much as that of Mississippi, I suppose; perhaps more. You have I don't know how many millions where Mississippi has not one. But the man does not live there ever saw a native Mississippian beggar; his bread."

We don't know about Connecticut beggars, but New York beggars always have bank accounts and frequently own real estate. Beggary is a recognized and profitable profession. The prosperity of Mississippi and all the South is too obvious to need to be attested by comparisons.

In a more significant passage Mr. WILLIAMS spoke of the South as "now happy, now industrious, where all its property has come from its own labor, its own moderation, its own conservatism."

Prosperous, happy, industrious, conservative; that is what Mr. BRYAN would call "commercialized." "Unless there is insatiable greed," checked," said the Kansas City platform of private monopolies, "all wealth will be aggregated in a few hands and the republic will be destroyed." Nearly four years after the Southern Democrats had consented to that rigmorale, one of the ablest Southern Democrats boasts of the generally distributed prosperity of his State.

We assume that this year the moderation and conservatism of the South will appear in a conservative and moderate Democratic platform, one that will descend to actual conditions and not spout of disaster and ruin; that Southern industry and prosperity will not regard industry and prosperity as the proper objects of Democratic attack.

But how it must sting Mr. BRYAN's heart to see the Southern Democrats satisfied and commercialized!

The Albanian Revolt.

The revolt of the Albanians of Ipek and Djakova with the Turks are now contending is nothing in itself, nor is it new. These insurgents are perhaps the most irreclaimable savages outside of Africa. They are particularly refractory to all rule involving order and the payment of taxes. They have been practically in a state of permanent insurrection ever since the Turco-Serbian war of 1878.

The policy of the Turkish Government toward these tribes has always been one of expediency and temporizing, the object being to keep them as a reserve against the day when Austrian troops coming from Bosnia shall find themselves involved in the defiles of Novi Bazar. Only once before last year, in 1890, did the Sultan lose patience and deal roughly with his turbulent Albanian subjects; but it was done diplomatically.

The wizen-looking, wily little General, DRYSH Pasha, who had refused to surrender Batum to the Russians in 1878, and Dulcigno later to the Montenegrins, invited the leaders of the Ipek, Djakova and Pristina members of the Albanian National League, which he himself had organized, to meet him in solemn conference at his headquarters

at Pristina on the railway from Mitrovica to Salonica. Wholly unsuspecting, they came to the number of about eighty, and in the middle of the conference a body of troops entered the Konak where they were assembled and made them all prisoners. They were hurried to the railway station into a train that was waiting for them, and taken down to Salonica, where a steamer was in readiness, and carried away to exile in Asia Minor. A few were eventually allowed to return to Albania, but most of them died prisoners.

That kept the tribes quiet for a time, but a movement promoted from Sofia during the '80s brought about a recrudescence of the agitation, this time aided by a journal—in Turkish—called the *Diklat*, that was published there. This revolt the Sultan put down by other means. A monthly payment of thirty Turkish liras, about \$15, to the editors and chief agitator secured peace for a time.

What danger there is in the present situation arises from the possible participation of the Catholic tribes, the Miridites. Religion sits lightly on the Albanian of the north. Race counts with him before everything. If the Mussulman and Catholic Albanians unite, and are well supplied with arms and ammunition, as they probably are, they will make a powerful diversion in favor of Bulgaria in the event of war between the Principality and Turkey; while it may bring both Italy and Austria on the scene, and set the Epigones in the south in motion, with Greece and Great Britain taking a hand.

Already the Greek press is calling on its Government to mobilize the army and send it to the frontier.

Janitors and Slabmen.

"Statement out of a job, apply Window Washers' Union." Such is the proud sign displayed in the offices of the Office Building Janitors and Window Washers' Union of Chicago. The former Secretary of State and former Military Governor of Capt. STREETER's former empire or republic, the District of Michigan, have yielded to destiny and given up governing for window washing. Not merely to retiring statesmen, but to young men burning for success, janitory offers a promising field. The office-building janitor is always comfortable and often rich. To the young man who has not chosen his life vocation, the Hon. CHARLES FIELDSTACK, president of the lately organized International Union of Building Employees, says: "Be a janitor." To show the potentialities of janitory, he cites the case of PETER HANSON:

"He is a window washer in Sidney Hall, and he has \$60,000 in stock in the building. It is an edifying sight to see him stride his fact and cap when he goes to his business, to inspect and enter the directors' room and sit down as one of the board."

We can't all be PETER HANSONs, but if we are janitors we must be "model men." The International Union insists that all its members be models of discipline and good habits, and holds before them the hope of owning shares in the buildings whose windows they wash.

Another profession is more immediately attractive to young men, because it appeals to their taste for athletics and gives good pay and plenty of vacation. The Hon. BANE JOHNSON and other baseball economists have reduced dropical salaries. Many players of talent will have to face the next season with contracts that insure them only from \$2,400 to \$3,500, but this is as much as many college professors get and the glory and the leading period are much greater. And genius breaks down the rules and conquers the palimony of JOHNSON. Thus the *St. Louis Republic* tells with just pride that "Cardinal player will draw salary of a Cabinet Officer"; that Smiling JOE CORBETT, now a greater man than Brother JIM, "will draw \$8,000 for the season of 1904." In a time of depression and salary slicing, "the Cardinals' new slabman" has had his salary increased by \$3,000. Cast an envious eye on the luxurious situation of Smiling JOE:

"Should Corbett pitch only forty games this season it will mean that he will receive \$200,000. A few very games last as long as two hours, so that the Californian will draw a little more than \$100 an hour for each game he pitches. This practically means that if Corbett stops to sleep any important game that he might play during a game, the luxury will cost him about \$60 cents."

In the late fall and the winter, the rewards of commerce or the delights of travel are in the power of the fortunate "slabman." No wonder he smiles. He can afford to smile.

A "slabman" from 20 to 30; a janitor from 30 to 50; a millionaire at 50—there is an agreeable Map of Life for ambitious youths.

What shall we do with our men? Wipe 'em out, kill 'em off, abolish 'em, says a stern Kansas prophesier. Humane hearts will hope that the men of the future will be different. In fact there is a gleam of hope. What will JAMES GAMBLE do? What punishment, red with uncommon wrath, is "lingering and humorous" enough?

Fraternity Rejected.

Victor—the Band Man trying out in Didi-dan's eyes.

Victor—the Band Man, I am mostly yielding to the physiological phenomena of sleep.

To-day.

Red, for the cherries. What did not in vain: what for the cherries. Unfilled by state.

Blue, for the prospect. He feared would come. "Red for old glory." And Washington too.

McCLANDER'S WAGON.

The Modern Way.

Kicker—Lucky fellow, Jones. Bookie—Yes. He dreamed he spent a day in Japan, and now the publishers are bringing out his profusely illustrated story of the country.

NEW YORK AWAKENING.

Realizing New Value of Once Derided Plans.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Circumstances not only alter cases, but quite frequently make cases, where time is an inseparable factor. When starting a warning cry in 1898, I was met with a chorus of derision. I was told that I was a dreamer, a visionary, a fool, and that my plans were a waste of time and money. I was told that I was a dreamer, a visionary, a fool, and that my plans were a waste of time and money. I was told that I was a dreamer, a visionary, a fool, and that my plans were a waste of time and money.

Again, with respect to special provision for salt water and apparatuses for fire purposes, to which subject much attention is now commendably devoted, it is not forgotten by citizens who took interest in the movement, that about ten years ago effort was made to introduce salt water, and a system of pumping, standing, and standing pipes, and it was vehemently opposed in some quarters as impracticable and dangerous. It was contended that in the matter of safety alone it would entail more trouble and loss upon the city than it would save, especially in the dry goods, paper and hardware and shopping districts. Men were produced to state their expert opinion that it would never do.

Then, or thereafter a little, as work began on the original Hudson River tunnel by Engineer Haskins, discovery was reported of a subterranean stream of fresh water on the New York East side several feet from the street level, and it was found that the water was in the hills and mountains of Westchester and Putnam counties. A few men took hold and faith in it was given, and it was planned to develop for a water supply in the dry goods districts, particularly if the city did not mind the expense. It was found that the water was in the hills and mountains of Westchester and Putnam counties. A few men took hold and faith in it was given, and it was planned to develop for a water supply in the dry goods districts, particularly if the city did not mind the expense.

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NEUTRALITY WITH AN "IF."

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: We hear and read a good deal in these days of the rights of China as a neutral, but much less of her duties. We also hear of the duties of the belligerents, Russia and Japan, toward China as a neutral, but little of the rights of each of the belligerents.

The territorial area of neutrality has not yet been traced on an atlas by the Emperor of Germany and by the President of the United States.

All we outsiders yet know is that Russia will not treat Manchuria as in the ring of Chinese neutrality. That was expected, inasmuch as Japan is fighting to compel Russia to retire from Manchuria. Nothing has been yet disclosed regarding the parts of China in which Germany has a sphere of influence.

No one mentions Korea, and both belligerents are actively invading her neutral land and waters.

Japan says she will "respect the neutrality of China as long as Russia does the same"—which saying is meaningless. Equally meaningless, in the sense of rights and duties, are such declarations as these, if the italicized parts are pondered:

Furthermore, the rights of Chinese officials and subjects with a view to military operations will, in their persons and property, be fully respected and protected by the imperial force, so far as military necessity permits. In the event, however, that they should stand in the way of the army of Japan, the imperial Government reserves to itself the right to take such action as the circumstances require.

If either belligerent wishes to overrun China, such belligerent will do it under pretext of retreat, or of an urgent demand for space. While neutral can or will prevent or punish the invasion?

If a hundred thousand of either or both belligerents overflow from Manchuria into Belgium, as Germans and Frenchmen did into Belgium, China has not the strength to intercept them, disarm them, and send them back.

China has neutral duties to discharge toward Russia and Japan. Is President Roosevelt willing to undertake the guaranty of their performance? Can he, unless the Senate or Congress consents?

Russia, appends three conditions to her tolerance of the German-American proposal for promoting the execution of neutral as well as belligerent rights and duties, but the United States will probably decline to stand sponsor for Japan and China.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21. NEUTER.

How to Help Baltimore.

From the Manufacturers' Record.

With every power, mental and physical, quickened with a sense of determination to conquer every obstacle, Baltimore does not ask for arms, but it does ask that the sentiment which has such a strong power in ruling business interests shall make itself felt in not permitting her trade to be taken away by the force of the temporary inability to promptly meet all requirements. The merchants and the manufacturers who, through many